

**State Board of Education
February 19, 2008
Item I**

Team: Standards and Assessment

Discussion Topic: Teaching Best Practice; Teacher Learning Communities

Alignment with Goals:

Goal I. Support high-quality, innovative instruction to improve student achievement.

Objective C. A clear statewide definition of high-quality instruction

SBE 2008 Focus Topic

Statutory Authority: 16 V.S.A. §165

Background Information:

At the February meeting, the SBE wanted to focus on teaching best practice, teacher learning communities and teacher leadership. St. Johnsbury is one example of a school that is using TLCs as part of a specific initiative focused on formative assessment.

Purpose of Discussion:

St. Johnsbury School is in its second year of implementing the Formative Assessment Project (FAP) which is a collaboration of the department, the Educator Testing Service (ETS), and regional Education Service Agencies (ESAs). Teachers are trained in ETS' *Keeping Learning on Track* and form Teacher Learning Communities (TLC) that meet monthly to support participating teachers in the implementation of their classroom action plan. Each TLC has a leader that is linked to other TLC leaders throughout the state through an on-line community facilitated by department staff.

This is one example of how a number of schools in Vermont are using TLCs to support improvements in learning.

Cost Implications: Funds to support this initiative; department staff time

Staff Available: Gail Taylor, Director, Standards and Assessment
Marty Gephart, Co-Assistant Director, Standards and Assessment
Ken Remsen, Program Lead, Formative Assessment Project